



Epi Update for Friday, August 24, 2018
Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology (CADE)
Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH)

Items for this week's EPI Update include:

- **Update: Iowa outbreaks**
- **IDPH needs schools to report daily and weekly illnesses!**
- **Back-to-school health resources**
- **In the news: These medical miracles were supposed to happen by the year 2000**
- **In the news: The media is falling short in reporting outbreaks of infectious diseases**
- **In the news: At least 100 people fall ill after convention in Michigan**
- **Infographic: Back-to-school food safety tips**
- **Meeting announcements and training opportunities**

Update: Iowa outbreaks

IDPH, in collaboration with local public health agencies, DIA and SHL, continues to investigate gastrointestinal outbreaks linked to recalled products. Newly identified cases are still being linked to these outbreaks, though reports have slowed.

As of today, 99 *Cyclospora* cases from Iowa have been linked to salads sold by McDonald's and 26 *Salmonella* cases from Iowa have been linked to spring mix pasta salad sold by Hy-Vee. Nationally, there are 507 cases from 16 states linked to salads sold by McDonald's and 79 cases from nine states linked to spring mix pasta salad sold by Hy-Vee. You may also recall that IDPH investigated an outbreak linked to chicken salad sold at Fareway last spring. There were ultimately 240 laboratory-confirmed cases identified as part of that investigation.

For more information about *Salmonella* linked to spring mix pasta salad sold by Hy-Vee, visit www.cdc.gov/salmonella/sandiego-07-18/index.html.

For more information about *Cyclospora* linked to salads sold by McDonald's, visit www.cdc.gov/parasites/cyclosporiasis/outbreaks/2018/b-071318/.

IDPH needs schools to report daily and weekly illnesses!

Reminder! Schools are asked to report to IDPH when 10 percent or more of total enrollment is absent due to illness on any given day. This includes absences due to any type of illness, not just influenza. These reports allow public health and schools to detect outbreaks and reduce the spread of disease.

Schools can also help IDPH detect illness increases in schools before it reaches the 10 percent level. The IDPH influenza surveillance program works with schools across Iowa to monitor weekly trends in illness, but it is vital to have representation in each area of the state. More schools are needed in southeast, southwest and northwest Iowa. Weekly illness reporting does not take much time and involves reporting statistics that schools are most likely tracking anyway, such as the number of students absent due to illness and total school enrollment.

Please contact CADE at 800-362-2736 if your school is interested in helping with influenza school surveillance in Iowa.

For more information about school illness surveillance and influenza, visit idph.iowa.gov/influenza/schools.

Back-to-school health resources

With students around Iowa returning to school, we would like to highlight just a few of the many available school health resources for schools, parents and students. Remember, the most important ways to prevent the spread of germs are to wash your hands, stay up to date on vaccinations, and stay home while you are sick!

For schools:

- Tips to improve parent engagement in health and education
www.cdc.gov/healthyyouth/protective/parent_engagement.htm
- Concussion management guidelines for Iowa schools
idph.iowa.gov/Portals/1/userfiles/32/Iowa%20Concussion%20Guidelines%202017%20-%20electronic.pdf
- School health resources from the Iowa Department of Education
educateiowa.gov/pk-12/learner-supports/school-health-resources#Healthy_Students_Promising_Futures

For parents:

- A handy guide to make sure your child is up to date on vaccinations
www.cdc.gov/vaccines/parents/protecting-children/index.html
- Student health requirements from the Iowa Department of Education
www.educateiowa.gov/student-health-requirements
- Keeping bag lunches safe
www.fsis.usda.gov/wps/portal/fsis/topics/food-safety-education/get-answers/food-safety-fact-sheets/safe-food-handling/keeping-bag-lunches-safe/CT_Index

For students:

- Fun, educational, health-related activities for 9-12 year old kids: BAM!
www.cdc.gov/bam/index.html

In the news: These medical miracles were supposed to happen by the year 2000

<https://paleofuture.gizmodo.com/these-medical-miracles-were-supposed-to-happen-by-the-y-1828353056>

In the news: The media is falling short in reporting outbreaks of infectious diseases

<https://www.sciencealert.com/the-media-is-falling-short-in-reporting-outbreaks-of-infectious-diseases>

In the news: At least 100 people fall ill after convention in Michigan

<https://www.usnews.com/news/best-states/michigan/articles/2018-08-23/at-least-100-people-fall-ill-after-convention-in-michigan>

Infographic: Back-to-school food safety tips



To view in full size, visit

www.flickr.com/photos/usdafoodsafety/28690807791/in/album-72157671912703496/

Meeting announcements and training opportunities

Save The Date! The *Iowa Governor's Conference on Public Health* will be held at the Airport Holiday Inn Des Moines April 23 and 24, 2019. This year's theme is

Stronger Collaborations, Better Health: Bringing Organizations Together to Improve Systems. For more information, visit www.iowapha.org/IGCPH.

Have a healthy and happy week!

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